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REMNANTS OF THE LETTER FILES OF THE DEARBORN FAMILY

The following letters from the files of General Henry Dearborn and his son, Henry Alexander Scammell Dearborn, are now in the possession of Mrs. Edna B. MacRae of Alameda, California. Mrs. MacRae informed me that they were rescued about the year 1897 from a pile of rubbish in the home of one of the great grandchildren of General Dearborn. Realizing that they were of historical importance, Mrs. MacRae brought them to my attention. When placed in my hands, they were preserved in an envelope, yellow with age, which bore the legend, "Woodbury and Moulton, Bankers, Portland, Me."

All the letters have original signatures except two, the exceptions being those of Monroe to Mitchell of September 7, 1812, and of March 20, 1813. These two letters are official copies written on state department paper by the same scribe who wrote the other letters of Monroe, the copyist signing Monroe's name. The letter of Gallatin to Dearborn of March 24, 1809, is entirely in the handwriting of Gallatin, and the two notes from Clay to H. A. S. Dearborn were penned by Clay.

The location of the remaining documents of the collection or their condition is unknown to the writer. According to an article on Henry Alexander Scammell Dearborn in *The national cyclopaedia of American biography* (9:323), he had a voluminous collection of papers containing an account of the life and the correspondence of his father. It was upon this collection that he drew for his *Defense of General Dearborn against the attacks of General Hull*. From the statement of Mrs. MacRae, the writer fears that this valuable collection has been looked upon as rubbish and has been destroyed, as have so many other private collections of historical value.

THOMAS MAITLAND MARSHALL

GALLATIN TO DEARBORN, March 24, 1809

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

March 24th 1809

SIR

The charges stated in the enclosed paper against D^r Waterhouse¹ having been laid before the President of the United States, he directed that they should be enquired into, which I now request that you will be pleased to do as Superintendent of the Marine hospital, & report the result together with your opinion thereon to this Department. Elizabeth Oliver & James Smith are charged for in the accounts as stated in the charges; but whether properly and who they are, does not appear.

Gen. Lincoln's² resignation has prevented an earlier attention to this business.

Doctor Waterhouse has been furnished with a copy of the paper marked "Statement of facts."

I have the honor to be respectfully Sir Your obed^t Serv^t

Albert Gallatin.³

GEN. H. DEARBORN⁴ Collector Boston.

¹ Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse was professor of the theory and practice of medicine in Harvard College, 1783-1812. During the later years of his professorship he was evidently connected with the marine hospital service. In 1813 he was appointed medical superintendent of the nine United States medical ports in New England, which office he held until 1820 when he withdrew from professional life. His honorable discharge was dated June 1, 1821. *The national cyclopædia of American biography*, 9: 254; Francis B. Heitman, *Historical register and dictionary of the United States army* (Washington, 1890), 1: 1008.

² Major General Benjamin Lincoln was a distinguished American commander in the revolutionary war. He was secretary of war from October 30, 1781, to November 12, 1783. He was appointed collector of the port of Boston by Washington. *National cyclopædia of American biography*, 1: 63; Heitman, *Historical register and dictionary of the United States army*, 1: 633.

³ This letter is not included in the lists of Gallatin's letters, published in the *Writings of Albert Gallatin*, edited by Henry Adams (Philadelphia, 1879), 3: 617-633.

⁴ Henry Dearborn was born at North Hampton, New Hampshire, on February 23, 1751. He studied medicine and started practice at Nottingham square, but when the revolutionary war started, he raised a company of volunteers and marched to Cambridge. He served with distinction, being promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel. At the close of the war he settled on a farm on the banks of the Kennebec. Five years later Washington appointed him United States marshal for Maine. He was twice elected to congress, and in 1801 was appointed secretary of war, a position which he held until 1809, when he became collector of the port of Boston. *National cyclopædia of American biography*, 1: 93-94; Heitman, *Historical register and dictionary of the United States army*, 1: 363. Some notice of Dearborn's activity as secretary of war will be found in Henry Adams, *History of the United States of America* (New York, 1889-1891), v. 1-4: *passim*.

[*Endorsed:*] Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury — March 24th 1809 directing an enquirey into complaints against Doct^r Benjⁿ Waterhouse.

MONROE TO MITCHELL, September 7, 1812

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Sept. 7th. 1812.

(Copy)

SIR,

It is expected that by this time you will have engaged a vessel to take you to Halifax, and to bring home as many of our prisoners there as she will accommodate; and it is desired that you will get out without delay.⁵

It is the object of your appointment, and it will be your duty, to take charge of all American Seamen, who are or may become prisoners at Halifax, and to send them home as soon as they are exchanged or delivered up to you for the purpose.

You will avail yourself of every opportunity which offers to send them home, and you are authorized to employ vessels specially for the purpose should it be necessary. You will never permit any considerable number to accumulate there at once. While there you will provide for their subsistence, and other necessities; and you will see that the sick are properly taken care of, and particularly that physicians and nurses are employed to attend them. In providing for their return home, it is probable that an arrangement may be made with the British commander at Halifax to take back British Seamen, which might accommodate both parties and lessen the expence; and it is enjoined on you to observe the utmost economy in your arrangements, compatible with the duties you have to perform. Should any of our citizens, not in the land or naval service of the United States, be made prisoners at Halifax, and be destitute of the means of subsisting themselves, or defraying their expences home, you are authorised to extend to them, in both respects, such aid as may be requisite.

By a letter of instruction to the marshal of Boston, a copy of which is enclosed, [N^o 1] ⁶ you will find that the President has given orders for the delivery of all the British prisoners there, to Mr Allen, late British consul, to be sent to Halifax or elsewhere, on his certificate and the receipt of Mr Baker. These prisoners are to be delivered up on account, to be taken into the estimate on a general exchange of prisoners. A desire to relieve the parties from distress, not to be avoided, in the com-

⁵ The president was authorized by an act of July 6, 1812, to make arrangements concerning prisoners of war and their exchange until otherwise provided for. One hundred thousand dollars was appropriated for the purpose. *Annals of congress*, 12 congress, 1 session (1811-1812), 2: 2354.

⁶ The inclosures mentioned were not with these papers.

mencement of the war, was the motive to this measure. It was impossible that provision should have been made, by either government, for the safe-keeping and accommodation of such of its seamen as might be made prisoners by the other, immediately after the declaration of war; nor was it in the power of either to make suitable provision, itself, for the prisoners it might make. It was thought more humane, for the present, to deliver up to the British commanders, all the prisoners we had taken, which is done in confidence that the same spirit will be manifested, and measure adopted by them. How long this will be persevered in, will of course depend on circumstances, and particularly on the conduct of the British commanders. The principles on which the exchange will be made will be adjusted by commissioners to be appointed by both Governments. I enclose you a copy of a communication between Mr. Baker and me on that subject. [N^o 2.]

You will observe that the British prisoners have been supplied with provisions at the expence of the United States. A ration per day has been allowed to each. This supply will be continued till the British commanders may be able to make provision for them.

Your drafts will be paid for the disbursements which you may have occasion to make in virtue of these instructions, they being accompanied by accounts of your expenditures, and a Statement of the number of prisoners under your Superintendence, as vouchers.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your mo: ob: ser:

(Signed) Ja^s Monroe.

JOHN MITCHELL, Esquire.⁷

VAN RENSSELAER TO DEARBORN, September 10, 1812

HEAD QUARTERS

LEWISTON ^s 10th Sept. 1812.

SIR

When I had the honor of receiving your communication of the 1st Inst. acquainting me of the dipositions you are making to reinforce me upon this Frontier with men, cannon, musketry, stores &c my attention was immediately arrested by the proposition of sending them from Oswego ⁹ to Niagara,¹⁰ or indeed any part of that distance, by water —

⁷ See *post*, note 35.

⁸ Lewiston, located on the New York shore about seven miles below Niagara falls. When used by Van Rensselaer as headquarters it contained between forty and fifty houses. William James, *Account of the military occurrences of the late war between Great Britain and the United States of America* (London, 1818), 1: 51, and map at front.

⁹ On the present site of Oswego, New York. See Adams, *History of the United States*, v. 7: map op. 164.

¹⁰ Fort Niagara was located on the American shore at the mouth of Niagara river. It was a fortification built of stone with breastworks on the land side. It mounted

It will be recollected that the passage of Lt. Col. Fenwick¹¹ was rendered safe under a clause of the Agreement for the observance of the Armistice:¹² — but upon the receipt of your letter, my own opinion was against risking anything, hereafter, along that shore by water — But I wished further information on the subject before I should advise you: the opinions of others with whom I have advised, & who are competent judges, agree with my own, that it would be very hazardous for the Batteaux to attempt coming from Oswego to Niagara in the very face of an active enemy having command of the water — The Batteaux might, and probably would, have some days of head wind; and in such case, it would be next to impossible that they should escape the observation of the enemy; and when once discovered they would undoubtedly be attacked in some place where the landing could be effected with most difficulty — My opinion is further strengthened by some late movements of the enemy — The next day after the termination of the Armistice,¹³ the Royal George¹⁴ and another armed vessel chased some vessels re-

between twenty and thirty pieces of ordnance, and contained a furnace for heating shot. James, *Military occurrences of the late war*, 1: 52.

¹¹ John Roger Fenwick attained the rank of lieutenant colonel of light artillery December 2, 1811, and on March 18, 1813, received the title of brevet-colonel for gallant conduct on the Niagara frontier. *Niles' register* (3: 76) says that Fenwick had arrived at Niagara with some pieces of heavy ordnance, and in the same volume (p. 126) says that he had placed the fort on a very respectable basis. For his entire military service, see Heitman, *Historical register and dictionary of the United States army*, 1: 417.

¹² Sir George Prevost, governor general of Canada, having heard that his government intended to revoke the orders in council, hoped that this conciliatory measure would end hostilities. While diplomatic representations were being made at Washington, Prevost and Dearborn, the American commander, agreed upon an armistice August 2, 1812. *Niles' register*, 3: 33-34; Adams, *History of the United States*, 6: 322-323. The effects of the armistice are discussed by James, *Military occurrences of the late war*, 1: 78.

¹³ On August 31, 1812, a general order was issued by Prevost announcing that the armistice was to cease within four days after the arrival of dispatches at Montreal, Kingston, and Fort George. (*Niles' register*, 3: 33-34.) Kingston was the British naval base on lake Ontario, and Fort George the British fortification opposite Fort Niagara. See maps in James, *Military occurrences of the late war*, v. 1.

¹⁴ At the opening of the war the English flotilla on lake Ontario consisted of the *Royal George*, a boat of three hundred and forty tons carrying twenty-two guns, and three smaller vessels. (*The Quarterly review*, 27: 411; James, *Military occurrences of the late war*, 1: 121.) The following letter, written at Canandaigua, October 6, 1812, throws further light on this phase of the war. "On Thursday night last a boat with 40, and a barge with 30 men, from the British brig Royal-George, which lay off, came into the mouth of the Genessee river, and cut away the fastenings of two vessels, and towed them out without any opposition. One of them was a schooner, the *Lady-Murray* . . . , the other a small vessel, used as a United States revenue cutter. The next morning, the British boat returned to the store-house of Mr.

turning from Niagara to Oswego, into Genesee River, and fired a few shot; this has excited an alarm among the inhabitants and according to the custom prevailing on the whole Frontier, they have sent a deputation to me praying for protection — I have ordered them some Ammunition: — I can do no more — — I am so entirely convinced that the Cargoes of the Batteaux will be in danger on the passage from Oswego to Niagara, that I shall send an express to have them stopped at Three-River-Point, and then sent up to Cayuga Bridge:¹⁵ their Cargoes landed, and transported here by land — Perhaps some precautions may be adopted so that the Batteaux may be got raised [?] to the 10 mile point, or some near position on the lake shore, & from thence drawn over-land — I shall bestow further attention upon the subject.

Believing that the best use I can make of the old Stone Mess-House, at Niagara, is to convert it into a Battery, I have ordered the roof to be taken off; the walls above the upper floor to be strengthened by en-bankments of earth, and two Twelve Pounders, & one Howit to be there mounted. It is high, and may, perhaps, avail us something — I expect it will be prepared in this manner, in a day or two, I was yesterday there, and the roof was nearly taken down.

I have the Honor to be Sir with great consideration Your Most Obt. Ser^t

V. RENNELAER¹⁶

MAJOR GENERAL DEARBORN.¹⁷

[Addressed:] Lewiston Sep 10th. Q O Major General Dearborn Head Quarters Greenbush.¹⁸

Spalding, and required the sails and rigging belonging to the schooner which had been dismantled. Finding they were in the store-house, they entered and took them.” *Niles’ register*, 3: 125-126.

¹⁵ Cayuga Bridge was located near the point where Cayuga lake narrows into Seneca river. Joseph H. Colton, *General atlas* (New York, 1859), plate 15.

¹⁶ Stephen Van Rensselaer was the last patroon in full authority in New York. He owned 436,000 acres in Rensselaer and Albany counties. He entered the New York assembly in 1789 and was in the state senate, 1791-1797, and was lieutenant governor, 1795-1801. He was an officer of militia from 1786 and was made a major general in 1801. Operations on the Niagara frontier were intrusted to him in 1812. He directed the disastrous attack on Queenstown opposite Lewiston on October 13, 1812, and a few days later the command was given to General Alexander Smyth. John B. McMaster, *History of the people of the United States*, 4: 7-13; Edward P. Cheyney, *The anti-rent agitation in the state of New York, 1839-1846* (University of Pennsylvania, *Publications in political economy and public law*, no. 2 — Philadelphia, 1887); *Niles’ register*, 3: 125, 138-141; James, *Military occurrences of the late war*, 1: 80-101, 376-386; Adams, *History of the United States*, 6: 336-361.

¹⁷ Henry Dearborn became major general January 27, 1812, and was placed in command of the army on the Canadian frontier. His career in the war of 1812 is discussed, at times with scant justice, in Adams, *History of the United States*, v. 6-7: *passim*.

¹⁸ Greenbush was a short distance below Albany on the east side of the Hudson

[*Endorsed:*] Gen^l Van Ransalaer — Sep. 10, 1812. Con^s Batteaux &c. — &c. Rec^d Sep. 18, 1812

VAN RENSSELAER TO DEARBORN, September 19, 1812

HEAD QUARTERS

LEWISTON 19th Sept. 1812.

SIR

This morning Mr James Hamilton, son of the late Judge Hamilton of Queenstown, a very intelligent young man who has just returned from Europe, applied to me for liberty to cross over the river to his place of residence. And notwithstanding he has a Pass from the Secretary of State I have felt constrained by a sense of duty to detain him until I can receive your instructions on this subject — Every precaution against Spies will be unavailing, if gentlemen of intelligence can be permitted to pass through our Country, associate in all circles, and then enter Canada. I have no particular reason to question the Honor of Mr Hamilton, or the propriety of his conduct: but it is reasonable to presume that he will consider the safety and welfare of his Country as paramount to all other obligations, and of course he will disclose to the enemy whatever information he possesses [*sic*] which can avail them — He has now passed thro' the country; — thro' my Camp: and has but a single mile further to proceed, where he can meet his Brothers¹⁹ who are officers of distinction in the Militia of Canada — I might add that such is the jealousy & suspicion which has prevailed on this Frontier since the surrender of General Hull²⁰ that no caution is too great: — It is indispensable to retain the confidence of the Troops, and Inhabitants: and I might say for the preservation of the Characters of Commanders — I have ordered Mr Hamilton to Buffalo there to remain until I shall receive your instructions. No occurrence of moment has taken place since the date of my last despatch.

river. Buchon, *Atlas, géographique, statistique, historique et chronologique des deux Amériques et des îles adjacentes* (Paris, 1825), plate xx.

¹⁹ Among the Canadian militia officers at the battle of Queenstown were Captains Robert and A. Hamilton. A Captain Thomas Hamilton, also of the Canadian militia, was captured at York (Toronto) on April 27, 1813. James, *Military occurrences of the late war*, 1: 378, 400.

²⁰ General William Hull, a distinguished officer in the revolutionary war, was appointed governor of Michigan territory in 1805. Two years later he negotiated a treaty with the Wyandot, Ottawa, Chippewa, and Potawatomi tribes to purchase a large tract of land. This with cessions in Indiana territory, aroused the violent opposition of The Prophet and Tecumseh, which eventually led to hostilities. When the war of 1812 broke out, Hull was given the task of defending Detroit. The campaign proved a dismal failure, Hull surrendering on August 16, 1812. *National cyclopædia of American biography*, 1: 66-67; Henry Adams, *History of the United States*, 6: 67-112, 289-335; James, *Military occurrences of the late war*, 1: 306-307; bureau of American ethnology, *Eighteenth annual report*, 2: 662-668, 674-676.

I have the honor to be with consideration and Respect Your most ob^t
Sev^t

V RENSSELAER.

MAJOR-GENERAL DEARBORN —

[*Endorsed:*] Gen^l Van Ransalaer Sep. 10. 1812 Con^s M^r Hamilton —
Received Sep. 29. 1812

MONROE TO DEARBORN, January 19, 1813

WAR DEPARTMENT

January 19th, 1813.

SIR,

Inclosed herewith you will receive a Copy of a Letter from the Naval Commander at Sackett's Harbour²¹ to the Secretary of the Navy.²² — I have to state to you that the President feels great anxiety on account of the exposed Situation of our Vessels of War on the Lakes, and directs that an adequate force be stationed at all those places, which unguarded, would invite an attack from the Enemy, as well at Buffaloe, & the Strait of Niagara, as at the other posts below.

A Court Martial has been ordered on General Hull, to sit at Philadelphia on the 25th of next month,²³ of which Brigadier General Hampton²⁴ is appointed President. — This exchange, and that of many of the Officers taken with him, and at Queenstown, has been made by the Government. They are exchanged for the men taken by the Essex,²⁵ on board a British Transport, who were parolled at Sea, and taken to Halifax, and put into immediate Service. The Exchange is made on the

²¹ Commodore Isaac Chauncey arrived at Sackett's Harbor in October, 1812. By November 6 he had equipped a fleet composed of the brig *Onedra* and six schooners mounting forty-eight guns. James, *Military occurrences of the late war*, 1: 121-122.

²² Paul Hamilton was governor of South Carolina, 1804-1806; in 1809 he became secretary of the navy. He resigned in December, 1812, probably at the request of Madison, and was succeeded by William Jones, who served from January, 1813, to December, 1814. Jones was later president of the United States bank and collector of customs at Philadelphia. *National cyclopædia of American biography*, 5: 373.

²³ General Hull was taken to Fort George and thence to Montreal. From there he wrote on September 8, 1812, to Eustis, the secretary of war, that without any request from him, Prevost had offered to take his parole and permit him to return to the United States; soon after he returned to Albany. The original intention was to try Hull at Philadelphia on February 25, 1813, before a court at which Brigadier General Wade Hampton was to preside, but the trial was postponed until January 3, 1814. It was held at Albany and Major General Henry Dearborn presided. *Niles' register*, 3: 40, 53, 58, 344; 5: 218; 6: 345.

²⁴ Wade Hampton became brigadier general February 15, 1809, and resigned March 16, 1814. Heitman, *Historical register and dictionary of the United States army*, 1: 496.

²⁵ For the career of the *Essex*, see Edgar S. Maclay, *A history of the United States navy from 1775 to 1893* (New York, 1894), 1: 322-331, 543-577.

principles of the Cartel ²⁶ sent here by the British Commander at Halifax. No objection to the measure is contemplated, because the example was set by the British Admiral, and the number of men exchanged for officers of certain grades, according to the principles of that Cartel, is strictly observed. A longer delay would prevent any trial of General Hull during the present season. Should General Prevost ²⁷ make any objection to it, which is not presumed, you will, from the Documents in your possession & explanations given you, be able to remove it.

I have the honor to be Very Respectfully Sir your ob^t Servant,

JAS MONROE.²⁸

MAJOR GENERAL DEARBORN Albany, N. Y.

[*Endorsed:*] James Monroe to Gen^l Dearborn dated Jany 19, 1813 — Inclosing a letter from the naval commandant at Sackets Harbour to the Secretary of the Navy. Expresses the anxiety of the President with regard [to] the safety of Sackets harbour — Niagara — &c Genl. Hull exchanged & to be tried on 25 February: 1813 DONE Rec^d Jany. 23. 1813.

RUSH TO DEARBORN, February 8, 1813

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE,

February 8th 1813

SIR.

Your Accounts of the Customs from the 1st to the 23^d of July are received.

The date of your Successor's ²⁹ oath of office being the 21st July, from

²⁶ See *post*, note 36.

²⁷ Sir George Prevost served with distinction in the West Indies, 1794-1807. In 1808 he became lieutenant governor and commander in chief of Nova Scotia. On February 14, 1811, he was chosen governor of Lower Canada and governor general of British North America. During the war of 1812 his policy was to carry on a defensive war. His career in the war was unfortunate; at Sackett's Harbor he displayed lack of generalship; assuming the offensive in July, 1814, he was checked at Plattsburg. For this failure he was condemned by the naval court. He demanded a trial by court-martial, but anxiety ruined his health and he died in London, January 5, 1816, before the trial was held. Leslie Stephen, *Dictionary of national biography*, 46: 320-321. Eulogies of Prevost may be found in the *Gentleman's magazine* (1816), 1: 183-184, and (1817) 1: 83-85. The *Quarterly review* (1822), 27: 405-449, throws the responsibility for English failures on the Canadian frontier upon Prevost.

²⁸ According to Henry Adams (*History of the United States*, 7: 81) Monroe acted as secretary of war from the resignation of Eustis, December 3, 1812, to the appointment of Armstrong, January 13, 1813. It would appear from this letter that Monroe continued to exercise the functions of secretary of war somewhat after that date. This is confirmed by Adams. (*Ibid.*, 147.) Monroe's plans of military organization and operation are given in *American state papers: military affairs*, 1: 608-610.

²⁹ Henry Alexander Scammell Dearborn succeeded his father as collector of the port of Boston. *National cyclopædia of American biography*, 9: 323.

which period he is entitled to the Emoluments of the office, your accounts include *two* days which, properly, belong to *his* agency.

I am, very respectfully, Your obedient Servant,

RICHARD RUSH.³⁰

HENRY DEARBORN Esq^r

[*Addressed:*] Comptroller's Office, R. Rush. Henry Dearborn Esq^r late Collector, Boston.

[*Endorsed:*] Late Coll^r Acct^s to the 23^d July rec^d — with a note for the Compt^r — Feb^r 8, 1813.

ARMSTRONG TO DEARBORN, February 12, 1813

WAR DEPARTMENT 12th Feb. 1813.

DEAR GENERAL,

The enclosed Rules & regulations for the government of the Hospital Department was addressed to my predecessor, who as I understand, neither adopted them, nor substituted any others. I now send them to you with authority to have them, or such of them as you may approve, printed and promulgated by General order.

If the Hospital stores, medicines and surgical instruments now at Albany, are not sufficient for the use of the expedition,³¹ you will order Dr. Akerly³² now at New York to send such supply of these articles as may be thought necessary.

The medicine chests which were intended for Regiments & actually distributed among those under my command during the last campaign, were much too large for field service. You would do well to have them reduced in bulk & I shall direct Dr. Le Baron³³ not to have any more of the same kind constructed.

With great respect, I am dear General, Your most obed. servant

JOHN ARMSTRONG.³⁴

GEN. DEARBORN Albany.

[*Endorsed:*] Secretary of War. Febr^y 12th, 1813. DONE.

³⁰ In 1811 Madison appointed Rush comptroller of the treasury. During the war he was one of the chief advisors of the government. Later he was attorney-general, minister to England, secretary of the treasury, and minister to France. In 1828 he was candidate for the vice-presidency with Adams. *National cyclopædia of American biography*, 5: 80-81; Richard Rush, *Memoranda of a residence at the court of London* (Philadelphia, 1833). Rush's *Memoranda* has been published with additions in several editions.

³¹ Dearborn's campaign of 1813 against Toronto and Fort George and about lake Ontario. Adams, *History of the United States*, 7: 144-171.

³² Dr. Samuel Akerly was appointed a hospital surgeon on June 29, 1813, and was honorably discharged on June 15, 1815. Heitman, *Historical register and dictionary of the United States army*, 1: 154.

³³ Dr. Francis Le Barron was appointed garrison surgeon on December 12, 1808, and apothecary general June 11, 1813. *Ibid.*, 622.

³⁴ Armstrong became secretary of war on January 13, 1813. He was keenly dis-

MONROE TO MITCHELL, March 20, 1813

(Copy)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
March 20. 1813

SIR,

Your letters of the 15th 17th 20th 22^d 27th and 29th of October; of the 14th 17th 18th 21st and 24th of November; and of the 1st 4th and 5th of December, 1812,³⁵ have been duly received.

The provisional agreement for the exchange of Naval Prisoners of War, concluded at Halifax on the 28th of November last, will require some alteration.³⁶

The article which relates to non-combatants may, for the present, remain as it stands expressed, leaving the United States free to propose a variation if experience should indicate the propriety of it.

Agreeably to the stipulations in the ninth article, two Cartel vessels will be employed and equipped by this Government. The one already in Commission is of a greater burthen than what is specified; but as she had been already purchased when the provisional agreement was received, it was considered no departure from the spirit of the arrangement to substitute her for one of one hundred and fifty tons. These Cartels will be commanded by Navy Officers, who will be instructed to conform to the particulars which the agreement prescribes.

The President has directed that Salem in Massachusetts, Newport in Rhode Island, Wilmington, in Delaware, and Charleston in South Carolina, shall be the Stations for British prisoners of war brought into the United States; of which you are requested to give the necessary notice to the proper authorities at Halifax.

The degradation of the officers of Privateers carrying less than fourteen carriage guns is not approved; and the President directs that all officers and seamen employed in the public and private armed vessels of the United States be placed upon an equal footing, merely giving a preference in exchange to those longest in confinement; unless otherwise specially agreed.

It is very desirable that the lists of Prisoners hitherto delivered, stipulated to be exchanged by the eleventh article, should be expedited; and

liked by Monroe. The military failures on the Canadian frontier and the capture of Washington were taken advantage of by Monroe, and Madison demanded his resignation. Armstrong's *Notices of the war of 1812* (New York, 1836-1840) is an important source for this period.

³⁵ Mitchell's letter of December 5, 1812, is in *Annals of congress*, 12 congress, 2 session (1812-1813), 3: 1244. Letters from Mitchell to Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren of October 21, and December 1 and 3, 1812, are in *ibid.*, 1240, 1244-1245.

³⁶ A general agreement for exchange of prisoners was announced in the *National Intelligencer* and copied in *Niles' register* for March 22, 1813 (4: 195).

I have to request you to forward them properly authenticated by the earliest opportunity. The stipulation in the same article, that in future no prisoner embarked in regular cartels shall be credited to either nation as exchanged until delivered at one of the stations of the nation to which such prisoner belongs, and a receipt obtained from the proper Agent certifying such delivery, is, on many accounts, inadmissible. When British prisoners are conveyed in American Cartels, as the agreement establishes a suitable guard to keep them in subjection, it might, perhaps, be allowable to reserve the final act of exchange till their delivery at the Ports of destination. The better way, however, would be, to consider the exchange as complete, on the delivery of the Prisoners at the place of embarkation. With respect to such British Prisoners as are conveyed in British Cartels, it is indispensable that this rule should prevail; and you are instructed to admit no other. Receipts of Exchange are of course to be taken at the place from whence the Prisoners depart.

With regard to the support of Prisoners, the United States will allow to those in their hands the same ration in value as is allowed by Great Britain to those in her custody. Whatever remains to be furnished for convenience or comfort on either side, may be supplied in addition by the Agents of the respective Governments. In this respect you can continue to administer to the wants of our fellow citizens in captivity under my former instructions to you. But you are in future, not to loan the money of the Government to individuals. A Physician, if indispensable, had better be employed at a fixed salary, for services to be rendered when called for.

If the provisions necessary to supply the defect of the British ration, for the comfort of our Citizens cannot be procured at Halifax, the requisite articles will be sent from the United States. But it is presumed, as the exchange will be immediate, that, in most cases, the deficiencies may be obtained on the spot. Accurate accounts of all your disbursements, it is expected, will be kept, and regularly transmitted to this Department.

A copy of the instructions to the Marshals of the United States, who will have the charge of the four stations for Naval Prisoners of War, is enclosed for your better information. The rules therein prescribed with respect to letters, letter-bags, and correspondence generally, are to be rigorously enforced by you, and you are moreover requested not to authorize any person whatever to repair to the United States, or their Territories, other than liberated or exchanged prisoners of war.

Agents will be appointed for Quebec, Jamaica, and Bermuda, which the President prefers to Barbados, with instructions similar to yours.

You will, therefore, endeavor to procure Bermuda to be substituted for Barbados.

The President approves of your attention to the wants of our Citizens and enjoins upon you a continuance of it, conforming, in the exercise of your functions, to the regulations established by the officers of the British Government, which you are requested to communicate to me from time to time as they may be varied.

It is distinctly understood and stated, that either party may terminate or suspend the obligation of the provisional agreement, on giving a reasonable previous notice to the other party.

In future your correspondence and agency is to be confined to the Department of State. Your draft on the Secretary of the Navy, of the 19th of October last, in favor of John H. Barnes for five hundred dollars, will be paid, and charged in your general account. If the Salary of two thousand dollars per annum at present allowed you by your appointment as Agent for American Prisoners, is not sufficient for your support, you are requested to state the fact, with the reasons of the insufficiency, for consideration.

The President has decided, that hereafter all prisoners released on parole, are to enter into an obligation not to serve in arms in any part of the world until regularly exchanged. The officers and crew of the Frigate *Macedonian*³⁷ and some others have been recently directed to be delivered upon this condition.

It having been represented to me that the crew of the Privateer *Thorn*, of Marblehead,³⁸ have been long in confinement, and being composed of active and useful men, I wish you to propose their speedy liberation to the British authorities, and, without making it a matter of special preference, to give to their release all the facilities in your power.

I have the honor to be Sir, Your most obed^t Serv^t.

(Signed) JA^s MONROE.

JOHN MITCHELL Esquire Agent for American Prisoners of War.

James Monroe to M^r Mitchell

Agent for *prisoners of war* at Halifax.

[*Endorsed*.:] James Monroe to Gen^l Dearborn [*sic*] March 20 — 1813 respecting Prisoners of War. Rec^d April 6, 1813

³⁷ On October 25, 1812, in latitude 29° north, longitude 29° 30' west, the frigate *Macedonian*, commanded by Captain John Carden, was captured by Captain Stephen Decatur of the *United States*. Decatur to Hamilton, October 30, 1812, *American state papers: naval affairs*, 1: 280-281.

³⁸ An account of privateers in the war of 1812 is in Edgar S. Maclay, *A history of American privateers* (New York, 1890), 225-502. The *Thorn*, however, is not mentioned in this connection, but the activities in the revolutionary war of a privateer of the same name are noted, *ibid.*, 89, 90.

MONROE TO DEARBORN, March 26, 1813

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
March 26. 1813.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that it is the desire of the President that the exchange of prisoners of war, of the land forces, should be confided to you; and pursuant thereto I now enclose you a list of American officers, furnished by the Adjutant-General, for the purpose of their being exchanged against the following officers and men, viz:

1. A Lieutenant of the Royal Artillery, a surgeon's mate, twenty-five privates, and one corporal of the 49th, and eight militiamen, made prisoners on the night of the 27th of November 1812, by the parties of our army which attacked the enemy opposite Black Rock,³⁹ except five of the privates of the 49th, who are stated by Col. Wm. H. Winder⁴⁰ to have been exchanged for five of our sailors and soldiers taken at the same time.

2. The officers and men taken at Brockville⁴¹ by Major Forsyth.⁴²

3. Major General J. Hislop,⁴³ major Thomas Walker, and Lieutenant

³⁹ Black Rock was on the American shore of Niagara river, about two miles north of what was then the village of Buffalo. It was defended by a battery. A ferry ran across to Bertie on the Canadian shore. Black Rock was used as a military base by Brigadier General Smyth in November, 1812. James, *Military occurrences of the late war*, 1: 50, 105-120.

⁴⁰ William Henry Winder was appointed lieutenant colonel on March 16, 1812, and colonel of the Fourteenth infantry on July 6. On the night of November 27 he led a successful expedition from Black Rock to the Canadian shore below Fort Erie. On March 12, 1813, he was promoted to brigadier general. On June 1 he was captured at Stony Creek and remained a prisoner until early in 1814. He returned to Canada to negotiate for the freedom of American prisoners. In May he was placed in command of the Maryland and Virginia districts. Defeated at Bladensburg, he retreated to Washington and then abandoned the capital. He was court-martialed but commended by the court. He was again sent to the Niagara frontier, where he remained until the end of the war. Adams, *History of the United States*, v. 6-8: *passim*; *American state papers: military affairs*, 1: 448; Heitman, *Historical register and dictionary of the United States army*, 1: 1049; *National cyclopaedia of American biography*, 10: 487.

⁴¹ Located on the Canadian shore of the St. Lawrence ten miles west of Ogdensburg. It was raided by a small force under Forsyth. The Americans crossed on the ice on the night of February 6, 1813. James, *Military occurrences of the late war*, 1: 133-134

⁴² Benjamin Forsyth was a captain of the rifles when the war opened. He distinguished himself by leading an expedition on September 20, 1812, against Gananoque to destroy military stores; became a major January 20, 1813; led the attack against Brockville, for which he received the title of brevet-lieutenant colonel. He was killed June 28, 1814, in the action of Odelstown, New York. Heitman, *Historical register and dictionary of the United States army*, 1: 430; *Niles' register*, 3: 93.

⁴³ Sir Thomas Hislop saw extensive service at Gibraltar and Toulon, and in Ire-

John Thomas Wood, captured on the 29th of December 1812, on board his Britannic Majesty's frigate *Java*, by the United States' frigate *Constitution*, captain Bainbridge. General Hislop, according to his parole, ranks as a Lieutenant-General within the presidency of Bombay, and, in that respect, may be regarded as a General commanding in chief.

I also transmit to you a list of captive officers of volunteer corps, whose personal character and influence in the western parts of the Union, render it extremely desirable that they should be speedily exchanged. The motive for their immediate exchange is so much the stronger, as a portion of the volunteers⁴⁴ under Genl. Harrison,⁴⁵ whose terms of service have expired, are about to leave him; and if these officers were freed from parole, they might, by proper exertions, be instrumental in effecting the return of many of those men to the ranks of the army.

No answer to my letter of the 12th ult^o relative to the exchange of Genl. Hull and others having reached me, I have to express to you the anxiety entertained at not hearing from you on that subject. This anxiety is increased in consequence of the currency which the error, into which Genl. Sir George Prevost has fallen, has gained by the insertion of his "General order" of the 8th of February⁴⁶ last in our public prints.

The value of rank and the rule of exchange, you will please to observe, is to conform to the tariff in the printed provisional Agreement for the exchange of Naval prisoners of war, a copy of which I now enclose. The principles of this Agreement, with the modification pointed out in my letter to Mr Mitchell of the 20th instant, a copy of which I likewise herewith forward, may form the basis of any convention for the exchange of land troops entered into between Sir George Prevost and yourself. And in relation to the business of exchanges generally, I will thank you to give me the earliest intelligence of all your proceedings.

Information received from Lieut. Larrabee having confirmed the fact land, South America, and the West Indies, 1778-1810. On March 28, 1812, he was appointed commander in chief at Bombay. He sailed in the *Java*, which was captured on December 29, 1812, in 13° 6' south latitude near the coast of Brazil by the frigate *Constitution* commanded by Bainbridge. Major Walker and Captain Wood were members of Hislop's staff. After blowing up the *Java*, Bainbridge landed the prisoners at San Salvadore, where they were paroled. Leshe Stephen, *Dictionary of national biography*, 27: 13-14; *American state papers: naval affairs*, 1: 290; *Annals of congress*, 12 congress, 2 session (1812-1813), 3: 1102-1103.

⁴⁴ An act of congress approved April 10, 1812, provided that the president might require the executives of the several states to take effectual measures to organize, equip, and hold in readiness their respective proportions of one hundred thousand militia, officers included, not to serve more than six months after their arrival at the place of rendezvous. *Annals of congress*, 12 congress, 1 session (1811-1812), 2: 2267.

⁴⁵ William Henry Harrison.

⁴⁶ For Prevost's general order of February 8, 1813, see *Niles' register*, 4: 45.

of his having been retaken, it is requested that you will consider Lieut. Jesup ⁴⁷ as absolutely included in the exchange with Genl. Hull and others: And, in consideration of the 23d regiment's being without a field officer, it is proposed that Major Mullany ⁴⁸ should be among the first exonerated from the obligations of his parole.

Among the duties which this branch of the public service includes, is the appointment of an Agent for American prisoners, to reside at Quebec: The President wishes you to select a discreet and intelligent officer to repair thither to execute the functions appertaining to such an appointment. His name and rank you can communicate to me whenever you may have made choice of a suitable person.

I have the Honor to be, Sir, very respectfully, your mo. ob. ser.

JA^s MONROE.

HENRY DEARBORN, Esq. Major-General, &c. &c. &c.

[*Endorsed*:] from the Dep^t of State March 26th — 1813 Confiding the exchange of certain prisoners of war (Lists of whom are enclosed) to the controul of Genl Dearborn — stating the wish of the President that a suitable officer be sent to Canada to act in the capacity of agent for Prisoners of war — &c. &c. Rec^d April 4 — 1813.

MONROE TO DEARBORN, November 25, 1813

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
November 25. 1813.

SIR,

A. W. Stuart, British Consul at New-London before the war, and afterwards agent for prisoners, having forfeited his claim to confidence, by granting licenses for a trade with the enemy,⁴⁹ and other improper

⁴⁷ There were two officers by the name of Larrabee in the service at that time. Adam Larrabee became a first lieutenant on May 1, 1811; Charles Larrabee attained the same rank and became a captain September 12, 1812. The rank of the former would seem to settle the matter of identity, but some doubt is thrown on the subject by the fact that Jesup is referred to as a lieutenant, although he had already been advanced to the rank of captain. Thomas Sidney Jesup became a first lieutenant on December 1, 1809. He served as adjutant to General Hull and was raised to the rank of captain on January 20, 1813. Heitman, *Historical register and dictionary of the United States army*, 1: 573, 616; *National cyclopædia of American biography*, 12: 65.

⁴⁸ James Robert Mullany became major of the Thirteenth infantry March 13, 1812, and was transferred to the Twenty-third infantry on August 26, 1812; he was advanced to lieutenant colonel on March 3, 1813. Heitman, *Historical register and dictionary of the United States army*, 1: 735.

⁴⁹ The following extract throws light on this subject: "Two thirds of the army in Canada are at this moment eating beef provided by American contractors, drawn principally from the States of Vermont and New York. This circumstance, as well

conduct, was dismissed from that office some time since, and ordered into the interior with other alien enemies, to a place designated by the marshal of Connecticut. Information from unquestionable authority was afterwards received here, that Mr. Stuart had left that place, contrary to the injunctions laid on him, had returned to New London, and was engaged in favoring an illicit commerce with the enemy, and giving them intelligence. He was ordered back to the place assigned him, and confined there, from which confinement he made his escape. Many acts are alledged against him, disrespectful to this government, repugnant to his duty, and in violation of our laws. It has been intimated, that, either thro' timidity, or other improper bias, the Marshal of that state has connived at, if he has not sanctioned in some instances, this unjustifiable conduct of Mr. Stuart. Whether from that, or from other cause, it appears to be impossible to subject him to those restraints in that state, which he has merited, and which the public interest essentially requires. The example of an alien enemy, defying the authority of the government, alone, if not in committing crimes, of a very atrocious character, cannot fail to produce a very pernicious effect. It is important that this man's conduct should be thoroughly investigated, and if the facts above stated, or any of them of a marked character, are true, that he be taken into custody and removed to New York, without delay, and confined there in safety. I have to request, therefore, by order of the president, that you immediately send a judicious and discreet officer to New London for this purpose, with instructions to communicate with commodore Decatur, and follow his advice in all the measures he may take in the business. The enquiry should also be extended to the conduct of the Marshal particularly, so as to enable the government to take, eventually, such measures in regard to him as may appear to be proper. It might likewise embrace all the circumstances in any way connected with Mr. Stuart's being at large after confinement and his unlawful conduct.

I have the honor to remain, Sir, with great consideration, your most ob^t sert.

JAS MONROE.

HENRY DEARBORN, esq. Major-General, &c. &c. &c.

[*Endorsed*:] from Mr. Monroe Dep^t of State. Nov: 25, 1813. ab^t a Mr. Stuart at New London. Rec^d Nov 29, 1813.

as that of the introduction of large sums of specie into this province, being notorious in the United States, it is to be expected Congress will take steps to deprive us of those resources, and under that apprehension large droves are daily crossing the lines coming into Lower Canada.' Prevoist to Lord Bathurst, August 27, 1814, quoted by Adams, *History of the United States*, 7: 146. Further light is thrown on this subject in *Niles' register*, 4: 370.

CLAY TO DEARBORN, December 26, 1831

H. Clay's⁵⁰ respects to General Dearborn,⁵¹ with many thanks for the opportunity afforded him of perusing the interest [*sic*] letter now returned, enclosed. Could we infuse the spirit which it breathes in our friends, throughout the Country, as I hope we may, there would be but little doubt of the issue of the existing contest.

Monday morning.

[*Addressed:*] The Honble Gen^l Dearborn at Mr. Walkers.

[*Endorsed:*] Hon. Henry Clay Dec. 26. 1831

CLAY TO DEARBORN, December 27, 1831

(Private)

MY DEAR SIR.

I send my answer, with the original note which you presented, thinking you would probably prefer having that.

With great regard Your friend

H. CLAY.

Tuesday night.⁵²

[*Addressed:*] The Honble Gen^l Dearborn at Mr. Walkers

[*Endorsed:*] Hon. Henry Clay.

⁵⁰ Henry Clay appears to have been in Washington at that time. Clay was then in violent opposition to Jackson. On Christmas day, 1831, he wrote, "The Executive is playing a deep game to avoid, at this session the responsibility of a decision on the Bank question. . . You say the Calhoun party has almost disappeared at Richmond. Judging from the number of the members of the General Assembly who attended the late caucus, I should suppose all parties but that of Jackson had disappeared in Virginia." Clay to Brooke, December 25, 1831. Henry Clay, *The private correspondence of Henry Clay*, edited by Calvin Colton (New York, 1856), 322-323.

⁵¹ Henry Alexander Scammell Dearborn, son of General Henry Dearborn, in 1812 succeeded his father as collector of the port of Boston. As brigadier general of militia he commanded the defenses of the harbor. He held his collectorship until 1829, when he was removed by President Jackson. He was then elected to the state house of representatives, became a member of the governor's council in 1830 and of the state senate in 1831. He was sent to congress in 1831, serving from December 5 of that year until March 2, 1833. He was adjutant general of Massachusetts, 1835-1843, and was mayor of Roxbury from 1847 until his death in 1851. (*National cyclopædia of American biography*, 9: 323.) The above letter is significant; Dearborn had evidently joined the Clay forces against Jackson. The letter was written soon after his arrival at Washington, where he had gone to serve in the house of representatives.

⁵² December 27, 1831.